

Sycamore

Acer pseudoplatanus

What to look for

Magnificent domed canopy, up to 35m high

Smooth grey-brown bark when young becoming scaly and flaky with maturity

Stout twigs with fat, green buds

Leaves are large, maple-leaf shape, with five pointed lobes

Flowers hang in long, spiky clusters

The paired, winged fruit (keys) are green tinged with red and ripen to brown



Where found

One of our commonest and most widespread trees, found almost everywhere

When to look

Leaves appear from April-May

Leaves drop in November

The leaves of many sycamores develop tar spot fungus (*Rhytisma acerinum*) from late summer, but it does not affect the long-term health of the tree



Did you know?

The sycamore tree is not native to the British Isles - it came from central and south-east Europe

It is thought to have been introduced some time between the Roman occupation and the 16th century, and has become established strongly only over the last 200 years

Sycamore has a significant ecological role as it supports huge numbers of aphids, which provide a important food source for wildlife

It is one of the fastest growing broad-leaved trees in the UK

The traditional wood used for making violin backs and scrolls. Occasional trees produce wood with a wavy grain, greatly increasing its value

The flowers produce abundant nectar, which makes a fragrant, delicately scented and pale-coloured honey

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